(a) whether it is a fact that a vibrant summit took place in Gujarat in January, 2007 where investors across the globe took part; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the summit including the issues discussed and the projects cleared for investment and the MoUs, if any signed there?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes Sir, The State Government organized the vibrant Gujarat global investors meet at Ahmedabad on January 12-13,2007.

(b) As reported by the State government, during the summit, seminars were held in 9 sectors-Oil and Gas, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Special Economic Zone and port-led Development, agro and food processing, engineering, auto and ceramics, bio-technology, textiles and apparels, gems and jewellery and pharmaceuticals, 343 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed and 20 announcements were made for investments in the state of Gujarat a total investment of Rs. 4,61,835/- crore.

Contribution of Indian diaspora

1861. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether of late, Indian diaspora has displayed its capabilities in science and technology, medicine, life science, information technology and a host of other disciplines;

(b) in what manner Government are thinking of taking advantage of their acumen and experience to help develop a social eco-system that is both sustainable and inclusive India being enjoying a high visibility;

(c) whether suitable modalities would be evolved so that these 2 per cent PRAVASIS who need to partner with India's 20 per cent middle-class and growing, to help raise the quality of life of the remaining population, are motivated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) Government has embarked on a new intiative for "Collaborative Projects with Scientists & Technologists of Indian Origin Abroad (CP-STIO)" in March 2006 for project based connectivity between home country scientists and STIOs abroad with a view to gaining from

STIOs experience, expertise and other resources at their disposal for enhancing India's excellence and global competitiveness; strengthening institutional and human capacity; accelerating achievement of goals set out in oh-going nationally important R&D projects; enhancing entrepreneurship amongst Indian S&T personnel; and strengthening alma mater relationships.

Collaborative Project proposals were solictited in the frontier areas of science and cutting edge technologies considered critical to Indian requirements arising out of technology foresight exercises and niches expressed by Indian industries such as Drugs & Pharmaceutical R&D, Hydrocarbon R&D, Automotive R&D, Biomedical Research, Decentralized Energy Systems, Display Technogies, Transportation Systems, Materials Science & Technology, Technology Management, IPR Management, Innovation etc.

Department of Science & Technology (DST) has selected 27 collaborative projects for supporting STIO's visits into India during 2006-2007 for strengthening institutional and human capacity & accelerating achievement of goals set out in on-going nationally important research under which DST together with Indian host institutions are suporting projects based visit of STIOs into India for 2-12 week period each year.

Indian labourers in foreign Nations

†1862. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Indian citizens working as labourers only in foreign countries alongwith the names of these countries;

(b) whether all these labourers are working as per Government rules or they are being made to work against the rules also; and

(c) whether Government consider it appropriae that a labour wing should be created under the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Emigration clearance is granted to workers for employment abroad under the Emigration Act, 1983. During last five years

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.